

January 5, 2015

Iowa's Non AYP Alternate Assessments

K-2 Early Literacy Alternate Assessment

The State of Iowa is field testing the required assessment training for Iowa's DLM Aligned K-2 Literacy Alternate Assessment in pilot sites across the state beginning February and ending May 2015. The required assessment training and Iowa's DLM Aligned K-2 Literacy Alternate Assessment will be operational August 2015.

If you have additional questions please contact Emily Thatcher at emily.thatcher@iowa.gov

Iowa's AYP Alternate Assessments

Iowa Alternate Assessment Science (IAAS)

- Second Reporting Period (November 16- January 30)
 - Teachers are expected to report on 5 items per content area rating scales assessed per reporting period. Any students whose performance results are not submitted by deadline of January 30 will result in assessment exclusion for that student in performance and participation. Exclusions may be appealed through Iowa Department of Education.

DLM ELA & Math Alternate Assessment

Winter Assessment Window- Phase C

- The Winter Assessment Window- Phase C is open **January 5 – March 30, 2015**. This window includes operational tests and field tests. All of these tests are selected through the Instructional Tools Interface (ITI) in Educator Portal.
- Teachers should continue to use the TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL, ACCESSIBILITY MANUAL, and supplemental manuals for 2014-15, which are located on Iowa's DLM webpage and cover the detailed procedures for preparing for and administering tests.
- This email highlights the unique features of the test experience in Winter Window- Phase C, as some of those features may be different from your experiences in phases Field Test A and Fall Assessment Window- Phase B.

Update on Content Assessed

English Language Arts, Grades 3-11

- Writing testlets are now available in all grades. Writing testlets include both emergent and conventional versions of writing. The codes will begin with “EE.EW” or “EE.CW” in ITI. The type of testlet recommended depends on the student’s data entered in the *First Contact Survey*. For more information on resources that support writing assessment see the FAQ available on the Educator Resource Page

http://www.dynamiclearningmaps.org/sites/default/files/documents/ERP/dlm_writing_testlet_faq.pdf.

How Do I Decide Which Essential Elements To Test During the Winter Assessment Window-Phase C?

1. Identify the EEs for each student’s grade level indicated in the State of Iowa’s Winter Assessment Window Phase C Test Blueprint highlighted in yellow.
2. Assess any required Fall EEs that were not assessed during the Fall Assessment Window during the winter assessment window. These EEs remain in Educator Portal and are listed in the Winter Assessment Test Blueprint highlighted in grey.
3. Plan for instruction and assessment using the State of Iowa’s DLM Timelines & Requirements Document.

How Do I Decide Which Linkage Levels To Test In Winter Assessment Window-Phase C?

1. The system will recommend a linkage level for the student based on First Contact Survey responses. You may accept the recommendation or choose a different level. Use the mini-maps and node descriptions for each EE to find the best level for each student on each EE. ELA mini-maps are at <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/content/educator-resource-page/ELA> and Math mini-maps are at <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/content/educator-resource-page/Math>.
2. Choose a level where the student has received instruction and would be capable of showing whether or not s/he had mastered the skills.

HINT: During the spring testing window the system will assign testlets to students based on First Contact Survey responses and student performance during that window.

Accepting the system recommended linkage level during Phase C will help your students become ready for the spring testing window.
3. You will be able to choose from all five linkage levels: Initial Precursor, Distal Precursor, Proximal Precursor, Target, and Successor.

4. See the heading “Select a Linkage Level” in the TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL for more guidance.

How Do I Record EEs in Educator Portal using the Instructional Tools Interface (ITI)?

As in the Fall Assessment Window, once you have identified the EEs you will record them in ITI.

The basic steps for using ITI in Educator Portal are:

1. Create a plan (one plan for each EE for each student).
2. Save the plan until you have finished instruction and are ready to test.
3. Confirm the plan to assign a test. Once a test is confirmed, it cannot be deleted. In the rare instance of an error during the confirmation stage, please contact the DLM Help Desk for assistance.
4. Retrieve the Testlet Information Page (TIP) that corresponds with the assigned test.
5. Retrieve the student’s username and password from the instructional plan history.
6. Administer the assessment.

See the “Use the Instructional Tools Interface” section of the TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL for step-by-step instructions.

Remember the instructional information in 2014-15 is limited to the mini-maps and nodes at each linkage level for the Essential Element. This information is available on the Educator Resource Page at http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/content/erp_im

How do I Prepare for the Tests?

- Test Administrators
 - Should communicate with their Data Stewards to review Educator Portal user accounts for new users to ensure correctness, including email addresses and user roles.
 - Who participated in Field Test A or Fall Assessment Window Phases B do not need to do any preparations in Educator Portal unless their student(s) need roster adjustments or changes to PNP or First Contact, or when a new student is assigned to the teacher.
 - Who are not yet familiar with DLM writing assessments should review the resources on delivering writing assessments. See the Writing Testlet FAQ on the Educator Resource Page

http://www.dynamiclearningmaps.org/sites/default/files/documents/ERP/dlm_writing_testlet_faq.pdf

- The KITE client must be installed on the computer or device that students use to take the test.
- It is also recommended to follow instructions in the *Guide to Practice Activities and Released Testlets* to give their students opportunities to become familiar with testlets before the window opens.

Accessibility Notes

For students who use the Text to Speech support (called synthetic spoken audio in Educator Portal PNP section), testlets that are being field tested will be delivered **without** text to speech enabled. Those testlets have “FT” in the test name. Educators should use the human read aloud option to read testlets aloud to students when the synthetic read aloud is not available. Operational testlets (those without “FT” in the name) will be delivered with synthetic audio support.

For students who are blind or who have visual impairments:

- Braille field tests will be delivered in a special window (January 19 – February 13, 2015). To participate in this test, the student’s **First Contact Survey** must be complete and the **PNP** must indicate this support need no later than **Monday, January 12**.
- Most DLM testlets are designed to be accessible to students who are blind or who have visual impairments. In some cases, alternate forms of testlets are more appropriate. To receive those forms when they are appropriate, the student’s PNP (“Access” column) must have “alternate form – visual impairment” checked on the “other supports” tab. These tests have “BVI” in the test name.

Summary	Display Enhancements	Language & Braille	Audio & Environment Support	Other Supports
<input type="button" value="Save"/>				
<div> <div> Supports Provided By Alternate Form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Form - Visual Impairment </div> <div> Supports Requiring Additional Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Two switch system <input type="checkbox"/> Administration via iPad <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptive equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Individualized manipulatives </div> <div> Supports Provided Outside the System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Human read aloud <input type="checkbox"/> Sign interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> Language translation <input type="checkbox"/> Test admin enters responses for student <input type="checkbox"/> Partner assisted scanning </div> </div>				
<input type="button" value="Save"/>				

Test Administration

- Each testlet is assigned when the test administrator confirms the choice of EE and linkage level in ITI.
- Tests delivered during Phase C will be a combination of operational testlets and field test testlets. All testlets should be administered as though they are operational.
- Each student should be assessed once on each selected EE across phases B and C. Please do not attempt to repeat assessments.
- Test administrators should follow the procedures for teacher-administered and computer-delivered testlets as described in the DLM TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL.
- Only Test administrators who have completed the required DLM Assessment Training are authorized personnel to administer the DLM assessment
- Testlets may be administered one at a time, or more than one may be completed in a single session. See the DLM TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL for additional guidance.

Testlet Information Pages (TIPs) provide the test administrator with important information about each testlet. During Winter Assessment Window-**Phase C**, retrieve the TIP for each testlet in ITI on the confirmation screen after confirming the test assignment. Download or print each TIP. When you are ready to test, match the test name on the TIP with the test you choose in KITE.

At the End of Winter Window-Phase C

- Delete TIPs saved electronically and shred printed TIPs.
- If one or more of your students received a writing testlet (grades 4, 8, or 11), please go to <http://tinyurl.com/dlm-b-writing> to complete a short survey about that experience.
- If you have feedback about accessibility of testlets for certain students, please go to <http://tinyurl.com/dlm-b-access> to complete a short survey about that experience.